

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /045 W
----- 128358

R 301200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5704

UNCLAS KINSHASA 10290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY ESTABLISHING AMERICAN COMMERCE CHAMBER
IN KINSHASA

1. IN ITS MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 28, AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION KINSHASA BEGAN DISCUSSIONS ITS NEW BYLAWS. E/C COUNSELOR INQUIRED WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST AMONG MEMBERSHIP TO CONVERT PRESENT ORGANIZATION INTO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. ADVISED MATTER WAS STUDIED FOUR YEARS AGO AND THAT ON BALANCE HEAVY PAPER WORK LOAD REQUIRED BY US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOULD OFFSET TANGIBLE BENEFITS SUCH A CHAMBER COULD PROVIDE. E/C COUNSELOR ALSO PROPOSED ASSOCIATION CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT EXPORT PROMOTION COMMITTEE WHICH IS TO BE TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT.

2. E/C COUNSELOR BELIEVES PRESENT MEMBERSHIP DESIRES AN ORGANIZATION WITH "TEETH" THAT WOULD BENEFIT MEMBERSHIP'S BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY RATHER THAN A SOCIAL CLUB, WHICH IT HAS BEEN FOR ALL INTENT AND PURPOSES.

3. COMMENT: E/C COUNSELOR IS OF OPINION THAT IF CONVINCING INFORMATION COULD BE PROVIDED BY US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND PRESENTATION IN WRITTEN FORM MADE TO INDICATE PRECISELY THE BENEFITS DERIVING FROM THE ERECTION OF A CHAPTER OF AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
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COMMERCE IN KINSHASA, ASSOCIATION WOULD BE INCLINED

TO ACCEPT.

4. SINCE THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED FOR THE CREATION OF AN EXPORT PROMOTION COMMITTEE, EMBASSY REQUESTS DATA FROM US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS TO COMMITTEE'S ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS.

5. IF VISIT US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL TO KINSHASA NOT POSSIBLE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE US CHAMBER'S REVIEW ASSOCIATION'S DRAFT BYLAWS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH BYLAWS WITH MINIMUM MODIFICATION COULD BE CONVERTED INTO AN AMERICAN COMMERCE CHAMBER CHARTER. COPIES BEING POUCHED TO HERMAN CHOEN OF AF.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINSHA10290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973111/aaaaaaal.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Jan-2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <16 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBILITY ESTABLISHING AMERICAN COMMERCE CHAMBER IN KINSHASA
TAGS: BEXP
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005